

Date: Tue, 16 Feb 93 22:37:41 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #221
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Tue, 16 Feb 93 Volume 93 : Issue 221

Today's Topics:

 Allison Peacock KD4NNH/AG
 ARES in Santa Clara county?
 ARRL Insurance
 Converter circuit ban is unenforcable
 Daily Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for 16 February
 dilemma (to drill or not to drill)
 GAP vertical Antennas
 Is used ham gear overpriced?
 Stolen Vehicle
 Swap Nets around the country?
 TV antenna questions
 What does dit-dit mean?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 17 Feb 93 03:07:11 GMT
From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!milano!shrike!ut-emx!astro.as.utexas.edu!
oo7@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Allison Peacock KD4NNH/AG
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

kd1hz@anomaly.sbs.com (Michael P. Deignan) rather grudgingly asks:

>>While I certainly am always happy to see youngsters get involved in Amateur
>>Radio, why would you be proud of someone who simply demonstrates that they can
>>memorize the question pool?

First of all, who says she memorized it all? Perhaps she understands at least some of the stuff too (like all of us, right?). Hands up all those who didn't memorize something for their test. And the morse test is all memorization, too, isn't it?

And what about that Judit Polgar, chess GM at age 6 months or whatever? She only memorized the chess moves anyway, right? And those musical prodigies - I bet they practise scales and stuff. I dunno, kids these days, sheesh!

Grumpily,

Derek Wills (AA5BT, G3NMX)
Department of Astronomy, University of Texas,
Austin TX 78712. (512-471-1392)
oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu
oo7@emx.utexas.edu

Date: 17 Feb 93 04:24:48 GMT
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!agate!stanford.edu!apple!erc@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: ARES in Santa Clara county?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Who's a person to contact if one wants to get involved with ARES/RACES in the bay area (Santa Clara/Alameda county)? I'll be moving back to the bay area in a week, and would like to continue my participation in an active ARES group - I'm very active in the Salt Lake County ARES program.

Please email. Thanks!

— —

Ed Carp, N7EKG erc@apple.com 801/538-0177
 (and the Gang of Four - Isis, Snowcat, Blackie and Sandalwood the Rabbit)

"It is your resistance to 'what is' that causes your suffering." -- Buddha

Date: Wed, 17 Feb 1993 02:07:40 GMT
From: usc!cs.utexas.edu!hermes.chpc.utexas.edu!news.utdallas.edu!
feenix.metronet.com!marcbg@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: ARRL Insurance
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <109873@netnews.upenn.edu> yee@mipg.upenn.edu (Conway Yee) writes:
>A couple of weeks ago, I saw a post or two about the ARRL affiliated

>insurance program...

>

>The brochure say, "Sales receipts for the replaced equipment are required
>before payment is made unless waived." Well, this would be appropriate
>for new equipment for which it is possible to buy replacement items but
>what about discontinued equipment. Much of the stuff I own is older
>discontinued ham gear. Furthermore, what happens if for some reason I
>insure it and then there is a price hike?

>

Let me clarify: First, there is the "unless waived" clause. You can go
out and buy the equipment with the insurance check, BUT you had better
have valid sales receipts to account for the money.

When you register equipment, you need serial numbers of ALL the equipment.

The insurance carrier will not pay out unless you REPLACE the equipment.
The insurance covers REPLACEMENT cost. If you own a Kenwood TS-520, they
will cover the price for an EQUIVALENT radio - that means you can't go out
and buy a TS-950, but you may be able to get another 520 used or possibly
something like TS-440. The insurance carrier is VERY good, if you have
any questions or need any further info, give them a call.

-Disclaimer: I do not work for the insurance company nor the ARRL

--

Marc Grant Amateur Radio Station N5MEI

internet: marcgbg@feenix.metronet.com

USPS: POB 850472, Richardson, TX 75085-0472

Date: Wed, 17 Feb 1993 02:04:50 GMT

From: swrinde!gatech!concert!unccsun.uncc.edu!ws75!wlhamaty@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: Converter circuit ban is unenforcable

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article 9205@porthos.cc.bellcore.com, whs70@dancer.cc.bellcore.com
(sohl,william h) writes:

>While I understand the argument you make, I think anyone building
>their own scanner is certainly not likely to be classified as
>a manufacturer. Now if you had stockpiles of chips and other
>components, perhaps, but I really doubt any prosecution would ever
>flow from the mere fact that someone had the components to
>build their own scanner/receiver/etc.

>

The key word here is likely. I think that, if we value our civil liberties, we

need

to start coming down on legislators that pass laws that can be broadly interpreted like this. How do I know if I am breaking the law? What if some overzealous government flunky decides to interpret the law literally? Worse the "honest citizens need not fear" argument is a dangerous one. It eventually leads to oppression. How long before someone decides to outlaw radios because people could use them in crimes? This new scanner law is totally pointless and does not warrant its costs and risks.

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[-----]
| Luke Hamaty KD4HSE           "More than gold, I love to complain."      |
| Impact Technologies Group - Trurl, from The Cyberiad                    |
|                               |                                           |
| 800-438-6017 or 704-549-1100                                           |
|                               My statements may not even reflect my own opinions. |
|                               |                                           |
[-----]
```

Date: 17 Feb 93 03:42:05 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Daily Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for 16 February
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

!!BEGIN!! (1.0) S.T.D. Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for DAY 047, 02/16/93
10.7 FLUX=133.7 90-AVG=138 SSN=123 BKI=0124 3220 BAI=008
BGND-XRAY=B5.1 FLU1=6.6E+05 FLU10=1.1E+04 PKI=1233 3111 PAI=007
BOU-DEV=004,008,019,042,029,014,010,004 DEV-AVG=016 NT SWF=01:014
XRAY-MAX= M2.1 @ 1429UT XRAY-MIN= B4.3 @ 0411UT XRAY-AVG= C1.3
NEUTN-MAX= +003% @ 1955UT NEUTN-MIN= -002% @ 0755UT NEUTN-AVG= +0.3%
PCA-MAX= +0.1DB @ 1825UT PCA-MIN= -0.6DB @ 2045UT PCA-AVG= -0.0DB
BOUTF-MAX=55413NT @ 1557UT BOUTF-MIN=55390NT @ 1847UT BOUTF-AVG=55406NT
GOES7-MAX=P:+110NT@ 2022UT GOES7-MIN=N:-021NT@ 0927UT G7-AVG=+078,+031,+008
GOES6-MAX=P:+121NT@ 1850UT GOES6-MIN=E:-006NT@ 2015UT G6-AVG=+092,+008,+042
FLUXFCST=STD:125,125,120;SESC:125,125,120 BAI/PAI-FCST=010,010,010/010,010,010
KFCST=0105 4010 0004 4011 27DAY-AP=010,006 27DAY-KP=3223 3322 2313 2111
WARNINGS=*MAJFLR;*SWF;*PROTON;*PCA
ALERTS=**MINFLR:M2.1/SF@1429UTC,S06W76(RGN7420)
!!END-DATA!!

Date: Wed, 17 Feb 1993 04:12:52 GMT
From: usc!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!The-Star.honeywell.com!umn.edu!csus.edu!
beach.csulb.edu!mosbrook@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: dilemma (to drill or not to drill)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I just bought a new truck, and am itching to install my radio in it.. the problem is that I am debating about whether or not to drill a hole and put an antenna through the roof, or if I should just use a mag-mount. can anyone tell me what they have done to fill said hole once they sold the vehicle, and/or what the effects were on resale value? any new, innovative ideas regarding patching the hole if need be?

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+-----+
| Brent Mosbrook      KC6MWW      |
|      mosbrook@csulb.edu      |
+-----+
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Date: 17 Feb 93 02:35:53 GMT
From: sun-barr!olivea!gossip.pyramid.com!pyramid!infmtx!seashore!randall@ames.arpa
Subject: GAP vertical Antennas
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

stellabo@phage.cshl.org (Fred Stellabotte) writes:

>Can anyone help ..??

>I am considering buying the GAP DX-VI vertical ..

>Does anyone have one ..??

>How does it compare to the Cushcraft R-5 or the AV-5 ..??

>Does anyone have any other suggestions ..??

>Thanks in advance ...

One of the ham mags has a review of this antenna this month ... not QST, but either 73 or CQ. It is a positive review. The article says that the antenna cannot be near any obstructions, but is easy to assemble. I don't have experience with this antenna, so I refer you to the article.

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=====

Randall Rhea

Informix Software, Inc.

Project Manager, MIS Sales/Marketing Systems uunet!pyramid!infmt!randall

Date: 17 Feb 93 02:00:48 GMT
From: sun-barr!olivea!gossip.pyramid.com!pyramid!infmt!seashore!randall@ames.arpa
Subject: Is used ham gear overpriced?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

yee@mipg.upenn.edu (Conway Yee) writes:

>I am currently in the market for an HT and have been shopping around
>both the new and used equipment. I notice that the going price for
>used gear is on the order of 80% (or so) of the new price. [...]

>First of all, when buying used gear, you do not get much in the way
>of a warranty [...]
>After shopping around, I have pretty much resigned myself to having to
>buy my HT new. [...]

The offered price for a used item almost always assumes
that there will be haggling. "Asking \$500" means that
you should offer around \$400 and work your way up from there.
I don't like haggling, but it's a fact of life in the
used market.

In general, there aren't any super deals in recent (less than 2
years old) equipment. A few people don't know what their stuff
is worth and offer some lowball price, and you can decide whether
it is morally correct to take advantage of them. You might
end up being taken advantage of: that low price might mean
that there's something wrong with the item.

New items are worth 20-30% less as soon as they leave the
store. Anyone who is offering a rig at 10% off the new
price is living in a fantasy world, or is prepared to negotiate.
Accessories (such as HT speaker-mikes) depreciate even more.
To find out the correct new price, call Ham Radio Outlet
or Austin Amateur Supply and get a quote. "List" prices
are just marketing gimmicks.

So, let's take an example of a Yaesu FT-470 HT. Its list price
is \$600; just ignore that. HRO sells it for say \$380 new.
Someone offers a used one for \$400, with an optional battery
pack, speaker mic, antenna, and leather case. You already
know that price is too high. Take 25% off the new price,
and you get \$304. Add a few bucks for the accessories.

Offer \$300 and see if he bites. Work your way up to around say \$330. You shouldn't pay more, but it is unlikely that you will pay less. Then decide if you need the accessories, and whether you should save \$60 more and buy a new one.

I personally believe that HTs are risky to buy used. Those guys get dropped an awful lot. The nicad batteries don't last very long and will need to be replaced. With reasonable prices on HTs (\$260 for new 2m rigs) these days, I would recommend getting a new one.

Also, with the welcome influx of no-code hams, 2m rigs are at a premium. A lot more people are looking for them now than they were 2 years ago.

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Randall Rhea	Informix Software, Inc.
Project Manager, MIS Sales/Marketing Systems	uunet!pyramid!infmx!randall

Date: 17 Feb 93 01:34:36 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Stolen Vehicle
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The 1988 Honda owned by N6QYU (what's left anyhow) was recovered on 14 February 1993 by the New Mexico State Police. Many thanks to those who kept a look-out!

--
Mike, KB6OWT
Linda Rae, N6QYU

Date: Wed, 17 Feb 93 02:00:29 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!hellgate.utah.edu!cs.utexas.edu!gerald@cc.utexas.edu!
slcs.slb.com!leo.asc.slb.com!sjsca4!jones@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Swap Nets around the country?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

jeffrey.n.jones (jeffj@cbnewsm.cb.att.com) wrote:
: Brought a question to mind, what are times and frequencies for
: swap nets on the air around the US and around the world?

Hmmm... a swapnet directory would be a great idea!

Anyway, here in the Phoenix area, there's one on 146.94 (PL 162.2) at 7:30 Mountain Time on Mondays. This repeater is linked through a couple of others to the San Diego, CA area, though I don't have all of the frequencies. (Note that Arizona doesn't go on "Daylight Savings" time, so there's a time shift in the San Diego area.)

There's also a net on Saturdays at, as I recall, 7:00 PM Pacific Time (so it changes time in AZ) on the same link. Although not a swapnet per se, check-ins with "wanted" or "for-sales" are welcome.

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed above are mine and not those of Schlumberger because they are NOT covered by the patent agreement!

Phone: (602) 345-3638 RF: N7RPQ
Snail: Clark Jones, Schlumberger Technologies, 7855 S. River Pkwy #116, Tempe,
AZ 85284-1825

Date: 17 Feb 93 01:44:29 GMT
From: sun-barr!olivea!gossip.pyramid.com!pyramid!infmtx!seashore!randall@ames.arpa
Subject: TV antenna questions
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

jack.decker@f8.n154.z1.fidonet.org (Jack Decker) writes:

>Basically, my problem is this. I have recently moved and I put up a TV
>antenna that I had used at my previous residence. This antenna is only about
>two or three years old, and is in good condition. It is a Radio Shack top of
>the line model (one of the BIG ones). Because it is so large, and for
>various other reasons I am only able to get this antenna about 15 feet off
>the ground at present. [... stuff deleted ...]

There might be something wrong with the antenna. Check especially the connection between the antenna and the lead-in. It may be corroded. You should have a clean metal-to-wire connection. There may also be something wrong with the antenna.

UHF generally does not have nearly the range as VHF. An antenna rated for 160 miles on VHF would be lucky to get a UHF signal 40 miles away. Also, if the signals are coming from different directions, a rotor may help.

Do you need a top-of-the-line antenna? Unless you really want to get signals from 100+ miles away, a big antenna like that is

not necessary ... in fact, it could cause ghosts.

>I suspected that perhaps part of the problem was the shielded cable [...]

75-ohm coax cable is superior to 300 ohm twin lead. You MUST, however, have a "color matching transformer" (i.e. balun) between the antenna and the lead-in. RS has them. If your TV has a coax connector, great, otherwise, you need a balun at your TV too. I suspect that the cable is probably old, or you did not use a balun. You are better off getting higher-quality cable than the stuff Radio Shack sells. I don't know where you can get it in your area, but good brands are Amphenol and Belden. Newer Radio Shack cable will do in a pinch, but you should replace it every couple of years.

>What about boosters? I've heard all sorts of stories on those.[...]

Boosters are great if you have good reception at one TV and want to run extensions to other parts of the house. I've had good luck with them on cable TV extensions. I have found them to be worthless when used to boost weak TV signals from an antenna.

>Finally, how much difference would height make? If I could go up, say, >another five feet, would it make an appreciable difference?

It could make a big difference. Make sure you use strong masts and guy wires, and take the usual safety precautions.

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Randall Rhea	Informix Software, Inc.
Project Manager, MIS Sales/Marketing Systems	uunet!pyramid!infmtx!randall

Date: Tue, 16 Feb 93 16:56:19 EST
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!wariat!dreaml!
jga@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: What does dit-dit mean?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1lmbn9INNqkh@tamsun.tamu.edu>, blw7149@tamsun.tamu.edu (Brandon Lee White) wrote:

> I've found numerous refernces in books as well as here on the net about the
> use of a simple dit-dit at the end of a qso. The references have been in t
> context of contests as well as simple ragchews. But nowhere have I been ab
> to find why people do this. The closest was a reference to DX stations doi

> it in place of sending QRZ?. The way I learned it, the QSO is over when th
> stations send SK. I've even heard stations sending SK, then the other send
> SK, then they both send dit-dit. Why send a final final?

Well, the only thing I can think of is this: From reading several Tom
Clancy style books the pilots and military types in the books key their
mic's twice as an acknowledgement. Sometimes one click means something,
three also.. Etc..

-j

--

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|  |  |  |  -Jon Anhold N8USK- @ Dreamland Network Systems
+--+-----+ (dreaml!jga) (jga@dreaml.wariat.org) AMPR: N8USK @ N08M
| # |  |  |  <"Wouldn't it be great if George Bush booby trapped the White>
#      <          House like the kid in Home Alone 2?"          >
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Date: 17 Feb 93 02:28:24 GMT
From: sun-barr!olivea!gossip.pyramid.com!pyramid!infmtx!seashore!randall@ames.arpa
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Feb9.014710.9525@netcom.com>, <randall.729453457@seashore>,
<1993Feb14.044939.21516@icd.teradyne.com>p
Subject : Re: WARNING: Bogus Mods for HTX202!

ardai@zax.eda.teradyne.com (Michael Ardai) writes:

>-The recent volume (5a) of -Radio/Tech Modifications- by Artsci
>-does not talk about R33. It does have this mod:
>[remove R55, jumper R77-R123/R124]

>When will people realize that there is *NO* mod to increase the rx/tx bands
>on the HTX202. It was specifically designed to *only* work on the 2M band.

The HTX-202 mod scam began with an April Fool's joke posted
to Usenet and various BBSs last year. The article talked
about all sorts of mods for power, frequency coverage, etc.
Unfortunately, it was written well enough for some people
to be fooled by it.

The Artsci mod is another matter. -Radio/Tech Modifications- Volume 5
is sold at ham radio stores and has a black cover. It is clear
that Artsci does not make any attempt to verify that the mod
is correct. I have also noticed other errors in this publication.

The Artsci mod books belong in the "round file". I will be writing to Quement Electronics and Ham Radio Outlet, the two stores in this area that sell the book.

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Randall Rhea                                Informix Software, Inc.
Project Manager, MIS Sales/Marketing Systems    uunet!pyramid!infmtx!randall
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Date: Tue, 16 Feb 93 23:25:48 GMT
From: pacbell.com!att-out!walter!porthos!dancer!whs70@network.UCSD.EDU
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Feb16.155906.9387@cbnewsc.cb.att.com>,
<1993Feb16.163738.2989@porthos.cc.bellcore.com>,
<1993Feb16.175118.12329@cbnewsc.cb.att.com>
Subject : Re: Converter circuit ban is unenforcable

In article <1993Feb16.175118.12329@cbnewsc.cb.att.com> k9jma@cbnewsc.cb.att.com (edwin.m.schaefer) writes:

>In article <1993Feb16.163738.2989@porthos.cc.bellcore.com>

whs70@dancer.cc.bellcore.com (sohl,william h) writes:

>.....some deleted.....

>>>to make possession of any of them evidence of a crime so the gov't can

>>>control people who use them: "Your Honor, this diode could be used to

>>>manufacture an illegal converter!"

>>

>>The new law does NOT make possession (by an individual) in any way

>>a crime. The new law is only directed at the future design, manufacture

>>and importation of scanners. (That doesn't mean I like it)

>

>True, but posession of components may be used either as evidence of the

>crime of manufacture or of intent to manufacture. Posession isn't the

>crime (illegal itself) - it may be used as evidence of the crime.

While I understand the argument you make, I think anyone building their own scanner is certainly not likely to be classified as a manufacturer. Now if you had stockpiles of chips and other components, perhaps, but I really doubt any prosecution would ever flow from the mere fact that someone had the components to build their own scanner/receiver/etc.

>.....irelevant stuff deleted.....

>

>>>gov't and media snoops will want them. What we need is a provision that
>>>allows manufacturers of (non type accepted, otherwise illegal to sell)
>>>equipment to sell to licensed amateurs as well as to gov't, media and
>>>whoever else is permitted to buy. We should probably also ask for
>>>provisions in the rules for personally constructed gear in ham stations
>>>like the present exemptions for homebrew 10 Meter amplifiers.

>>

>>Nothing in the new scanner ban prohibits individuals from constructing
>>their own scanner equipment. So, if you've got the ability to do so,
>>go right ahead. Electronic experimenters have been making their
>>own electrical projects for years. Type acceptance is strictly a function
>>of commercially available equipment.

>

>Not quite. Type acceptance is required for sale of any specified
>(TX or RX) equipment with some defined exceptions. So suppose I want to
>sell my rig (including a RX that scans and covers cellfreqs) to someone else.
>I can sell my homebrew 10 Meter amplifier only because the rules specifically
>allow this. We (will now) need the same dispensation for receiving equipment.

Type acceptance is needed for commercial equipment sale. Visit any
hamfest, computer flea market, etc. and you'll find all kinds of
"homebrew" stuff for sale. Again, nothing (IMHO) in the new law
would prohibit an individual from building their own scanner, AND
the possibility of future sale of that single unit isn't really
addressed by the legislation either (again, IMHO).

Standard Disclaimer- Any opinions, etc. are mine and NOT my employer's.

Bill Sohl (K2UNK) BELLCORE (Bell Communications Research, Inc.)
Morristown, NJ email via UUCP bcr!cc!whs70
201-829-2879 Weekdays email via Internet whs70@cc.bellcore.com

Date: Wed, 17 Feb 1993 06:11:43 GMT

From: swrinde!gatech!emory!athena!aisun3.ai.uga.edu!mcovingt@network.UCSD.EDU

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Feb12.185518.17617@sbcs.sunysb.edu>,
<1lolhpINNnq2@quasar.genrad.com>, <1993Feb15.192343.18347@mprgate.mpr.ca>1
Subject : Re: kits - subject to type acceptance, or not?

In article <1993Feb15.192343.18347@mprgate.mpr.ca> vanderby@mprgate.mpr.ca (David
Vanderbyl) writes:

>>Yes I know it was awfully silly of me to use this 75 ohm resistor even though
>>they told me not to but.....

>

>So you screwed up your kit and then want it to be fixed on warranty?

He used the resistor that was *supplied* in the kit, then later discovered the fine print said not to use that resistor!

>>I returned the Amplifier and called Visa to stop the payment. The people at
>>Visa were astounded that CCI were doing this stuff and promptly credited
>>my account.

>

>This is interesting, as I have seen TV programs where it was said that
>using Visa was like using cash. i.e. no stop payments were allowed.

The Visa people are quite aggressive when it comes to protecting you from consumer fraud and the like. It probably depends to some extent on the individual credit card issuer. The card issuer probably figures that any business that would play tricks on customers, would also play tricks on banks!

--

:- Michael A. Covington internet mcovingt@uga.cc.uga.edu : *****
:- Artificial Intelligence Programs phone 706 542-0358 : *****
:- The University of Georgia fax 706 542-0349 : * * *
:- Athens, Georgia 30602-7415 U.S.A. amateur radio N4TMI : ** *** **

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #221
